

## **Blake Bogs**

### **Division at Large Candidate**



**My name is Blake Bogs and I am running for reelection on the Board of Directors for the Director at Large position. I feel I still have much to offer the LSR as Director at Large. I have worked on several projects involving youth and have many more ideas that will bring more youth into railroading. I believe that being a younger than average model railroader, as well as a board member, allows me the advantage to bring a different perspective to the board. Although I am no longer considered a youth, I am able to provide the experience I had being a youth in the LSR, which will help the LSR to continue to lay a foundation for the future youth.**

**Here is a little background about myself. I am currently a senior at Sam Houston State University majoring in Mathematics with a minor in Computer Science. I joined the NMRA 9 years ago when I was 14 years old, and have been unwaveringly involved in the NMRA and LSR since. Over the past 9 years, I have been heavily involved in various aspects of LSR as well as have attended every convention since 2009.**

**I received my first youth award in 2009 at the LSR 2009 Trinity River Interchange Convention. I joined the Nomination team in 2011 as a Nomination Co-Chair. When Steve Barkley became president in 2013 I assumed the position of Nomination Chair. I left the position of Nomination Chair in 2016 when I was elected Director at Large for LSR so I could focus solely on that position. However, six months later I volunteered to once again be the Nomination Chair when Steve Blackson resigned. Since then, I have continued to be the Nomination Chair as well as Director at Large and now have a nomination committee in place once again.**

**I earned my first Model Railroader certificate (Volunteer) in 2015, Author in 2016, and I am nearly complete with several other Model Railroader certificates. I started building a modular layout in 2013 which is progressing as I have time. I have learned so much from building this layout and feel like I have much more to offer as a NMRA member now that I have the first-hand skills of building a layout. I built my first scratch built model in 2017 and won second place in the contest room during the LSR convention.**

**Additionally, I am the coordinator for the Petticoat Junction Model Railroad group in Houston. I took over the group in 2013 after Bill Wilson passed away in 2011. Since I have taken over the group, we now have an updated roster, monthly email reminders, offer continuous clinics, and participate in various train shows. We have grown from 40 members on our reminders to nearly 100. We are also averaging between 40-60 members per meeting, up from an average of 15 per meeting 5 years ago. We also now participate on the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club's Fall Layout Tour.**

**I have many more ideas to bring to the board if I were reelected and I hope you will allow me to continue on this path as your current and future Director-at-Large.**